

CITY OF CHICOPEE

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



STANLEY J. WALCZAK, C.P.R.P.
Superintendent

RICHARD G. MACIOLEK
Assistant Superintendent

Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 22, 2009

Commissioners present were: Vice Chairman Robert Erhardt, Secretary Elizabeth Montemagni and Commissioners Nancy Fenton and Doug Girouard. Also present was Stanley J. Walczak, Superintendent and Richard Maciolek, Assistant Superintendent. In attendance was Brent Dillard of Gold Star Soccer.

Vice Chairman Erhardt called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton to suspend the regular order of business to hear from the audience guest. Mr. Dillard submitted rosters for their three maple soccer teams that he co-ordinates. The Commission in reviewing the rosters finds very few Chicopee players on these teams. Commissioner Erhardt was concerned that fields assigned to Mr. Dillard place our local youth teams at a disadvantage for practice time. Also, fees structures will have to be examined in the future so that the Parks Department receives their fair share for the field rental on his programs. Concerns were also raised about soccer goal posts at Williams Park being left without security in place. The Commission indicated that this program will finish out their schedule but new standards and regulations will be originated for future field usage.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to return to the regular order of business at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve the August 25, 2009 meeting minutes as written.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to receive, place on file or take the appropriate action on the following communications.

Communications:

1. Letter from Brent Dillard.
2. E-Mail from Matt Hernke.
3. Letter from Litwin P.T.O.
4. Letter from Randy Trask.
5. E-Mail from Roy LaPlante.

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Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to deny a request by Matt Hernke regarding AAU baseball teams. Mr. Hernke did not attend the meeting to explain his request.

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve a walkathon and bake sale by the Litwin P.T.O. on Saturday, October 17, 2009, from 9-11:00 a.m. at Williams Park. Ms. Fenton abstained from the vote.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve a request by the AJAC soccer program to use two fields at Ray Ash Park for their (4-5) age group and (6-8) age groups starting September 26-November 14, 2009. The Commission also approved a jamboree and coaches game at the season finale.

Assistant Superintendent Maciolek will handle the arrangements to have portable toilets at three city parks following the City Council's approval of monies for the youth league soccer program.

Superintendent Walczak reported that a flag football game previously approved will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009, 4:00 p.m., Szot Park between the Chicopee Police vs former Patriots Players.

Superintendent Walczak indicated that a plan to assist the revitalization of the Comp Softball Field by the Parks Department was issued to the School Department officials. However, efforts to fix the field will be handled in house by their staff members.

Chairman Gary Ziemba entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Superintendent Walczak reported that a tour of Szot Park facilities by potential architectural firms was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. The consultants will be submitting their qualifications and experiences relative to a Gateway Grant for energy and environmental improvements.

Superintendent Walczak stated that park maintenance employees are installing new water bubblers at Lincoln Grove, Dana Park and Ray Ash Park. Diamond work is being completed at a variety of 60' and 90' ft. fields. Vandalism has occurred at Fairview Park, Ike Alpert Park and Williams Park requiring immediate repairs or removal of damages. The Department also continues to do weekly trash pick-up, line fields for athletic games and maintain the city's three cemeteries.

Assistant Superintendent Maciolek handed out a list of fall/winter programs in a calendar sequence. Upcoming events and activities include Yoga and aerobics classes, suburban and youth basketball programs, sports, shopping trips and special events.

A list of prospective coaches for our boys and girls suburban basketball program was distributed to the Commission. Of the eight coaches presented, six are returning coaches and two are new to the program.

Commissioner Erhardt asked that if there was a boys 7-8th "B" team that consideration be given to balancing the team as even as possible between Chicopee and Comp participants. Commissioner Montemagni also indicated that Suburban coaches stress academics being as important as learning basketball skills during the tryout and regular season process.

Commissioner Erhardt asked Assistant Superintendent Maciolek about the status of new bubblers being installed at Litwin and Williams Park. Thus far, no progress has been made towards this fall project.

Commissioner Girouard spoke with Tim Cariveau who hosted the Gallagher Cup recently at Williams Park. Problems regarding parking, food preparation and use of alcoholic beverages will need to be addressed in the future if the event is to be held again on city fields.

Recreation Supervisor Dan Woodill issued a brief report on 2009 Opee Summer Adventures which addressed various topics such as attendance figures, evaluation of entertainers, field trips, sports and arts & crafts program and other camp issues such as the lunch program, pre and post camp and department leadership.

Recreation Supervisor Sean Carroll prepared a report on pool and park attendances at city parks. Szot and Ray Ash Pools were the most used pools and Williams and Wisniewski Parks had the best attendance for park activities and water resource usage.

Commissioner Erhardt stated that more barrels were needed at Stefanik field for football games. Assistant Superintendent Maciolek indicated that barrels were being made available from the Waste Water plant that could be placed there.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, and voted unanimously to award the Sarah Jane Skatepark bid to Skatewave as the lowest responsible bidder for this project in the amount of \$34,750.

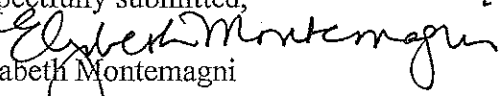
Discussion was held on the upcoming mens basketball league program and the Commission's request that teams entered be limited and the rule regarding a limit of three non-residents per team be adhered to. Commissioner Erhardt stated that whatever time for Chicopee youth teams is available at Chicopee High or Chicopee Comp be maximized for their basketball practices this season given the large number of youth and suburban teams.

Chairman Ziemba asked if the Szot Park tennis courts could be checked and cleaned for foreign objects and pine needles that tend to appear this fall season.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Montemagni
Secretary

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